

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING AID WORKERS KILLED IN AFGHANISTAN

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 10 courageous men and women whose lives were brutally cut short in Nuristan Province, Afghanistan, on August 5th, 2010. These individuals devoted their lives to helping others, and unfortunately, paid the ultimate price.

In particular, I would like to recognize and honor Brian Carderelli, a constituent of mine from Harrisonburg, Virginia. Mr. Carderelli was a recent graduate from James Madison University and was working to chronicle the work of the aid workers by recording them in photographs and video. Unlike many new college graduates, Mr. Carderelli chose to pursue a career in a challenging foreign environment, where his dedication to improving the lives of others took priority. His work with the International Assistance Mission and the International School of Kabul are a testament to that dedication.

Though the work of Mr. Carderelli and the International Assistance Mission team was certainly valued by those they helped, unfortunately not everyone appreciated their efforts. For several years, the Taliban ruled Afghanistan with brutality and terror. Intolerance for other religions and ignorance of human rights was standard. While the situation for the citizens of Afghanistan has improved since the rule of the Taliban, their presence has not been eliminated, and their brutal tactics persist.

The work of Brian Carderelli and his nine fellow workers is the work that will ultimately erode support for the Taliban and end that chapter in the country's history for good. Their efforts were selfless and humble, and are an inspiration to us all. These dedicated individuals will be missed, but the untold impact that each one of them had on the lives that they touched will certainly not be forgotten.

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, while there are several issues that we would like to continue working on as this bill moves forward, I want to voice my support for H.R. 4714, the "National Transportation Safety Board Reauthorization Act of 2010."

The NTSB is a small, but important, part of the federal government and makes critical

contributions to our nation's transportation safety each year.

In 1967, Congress formed the NTSB as an independent agency to investigate civil aviation accidents and significant transportation accidents in the surface modes—railroad, highway, marine, and pipeline—as well as assisting victims of fatal accidents.

Since its creation in 1967, the NTSB has investigated more than 132,000 aviation accidents and more than 10,000 accidents in other transportation modes. As a result of these investigations, the Board has issued a total of almost 13,000 safety recommendations and over 82 percent of those have been adopted.

In making safety improvement recommendations based on world-class investigations, hundreds of NTSB professionals as well as the Federal Aviation Administration and the aviation industry have helped create the safest aviation system in the world. With its current resources, NTSB continues to do a tremendous service to this Nation and the traveling public in all modes of transportation.

H.R. 4714, as amended, provides for a four-year reauthorization—fiscal years 2011 through 2014.

Given the size of the federal deficit and the improvement in aviation safety resulting in fewer aviation accidents requiring NTSB's attention, we are concerned with the level of funding authorized in this bill.

We believe that a better starting point for the NTSB's funding levels is \$100.4 million, the amount requested in the fiscal year 2011 President's budget. The NTSB both supports and is comfortable with the President's budget Request.

Despite the state of the federal budget, as introduced, H.R. 4714 would have authorized a twenty percent increase over current levels from 2010 to 2011.

Even a ten percent increase in authorization levels, as included in the amended version of H.R. 4714, raises concerns due to the Federal deficit. H.R. 4714, as amended, would authorize a total of a 27 percent increase in funding over 4 years.

We remain concerned with the authorization levels contained in the bill and look forward to continuing to work with our colleagues on this issue should H.R. 4714 go to conference.

This bill also expands the NTSB's authority to investigate "incidents" in all modes of transportation. The bill directs the NTSB to define the term "incidents" in a rulemaking. It is our understanding that the Department of Transportation will be given the opportunity to comment on and influence the NTSB's rulemaking. This bill would also require the formulation of Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with each appropriate modal agency to describe and reach understanding on the roles and responsibilities of each party in the event of an NTSB incident investigation.

We believe that the inclusion of "incidents" in the definition of "accidents" will require close oversight by Congress to ensure that there are no negative impacts on the ability of each modal transportation agency to inves-

tigate and conduct enforcement activities. The potential for the NTSB to obtain evidence voluntarily from the parties involved in an incident may limit the evidence available to the modal agencies in the pursuit of an enforcement action.

We also remain concerned about the impact of a provision prohibiting the disclosure of information by party representatives during an investigation. While the intent of the provision is sincere, its impact may severely harm the party representative system, a system that has served the Nation well over the years.

We would like to work with the Chairman and Rep. CARNAHAN to ensure the provision achieves its intended result without unintended consequences.

Finally, we would like to thank the Chairman for trying to address the concerns raised at markup regarding the language in the bill on interim recommendations.

Unfortunately, despite these changes to the bill, we are still concerned that there may be some confusion with the issuance of both interim safety recommendations and final recommendations. Again, we hope the Chairman will continue to work with us to address these concerns as this bill moves forward.

While these are several issues that we would like to continue working on in a bipartisan manner, we do support H.R. 4714 and look forward to working together to improve the bill.

I thank the Chairman as well as my other colleagues for their work on this bipartisan bill.

HARVARD PILGRIM CANCELS
MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PLAN,
SADLY A SIGN OF MORE TO
COME

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, sadly what we said would happen to the popular Medicare Advantage program when Congress enacted Obamacare is starting to come true. Harvard Pilgrim recently notified 22,000 New England seniors that it would be canceling their Medicare Advantage plans at the end of the year. The decision to cancel their participation in the program was made because of the newly enacted freeze in federal reimbursements and their concerns regarding the long-term viability of Medicare Advantage.

I am very afraid that Harvard Pilgrim is just the tip of the iceberg. Other Medicare Advantage providers will probably reach the same decision to cancel their participation. Health care reform was supposed to allow those individuals who liked their health care insurance to be able to keep it. Sadly these 22,000 New England seniors are now searching for new coverage in 2011. We must restore Medicare Advantage for our seniors that depend on it.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

REGARDING THE IMPORTANCE OF
NON-PROLIFERATION EFFORTS
AND IRANIAN SANCTIONS**HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss the grave threat posed to the stability of the Middle East if the Iranian regime were to acquire or develop nuclear weapons technology.

In June, CIA Director Leon Panetta speculated that Iran probably has enough low-enriched uranium for two nuclear weapons. The silver lining, if there is one, is that according to Panetta we likely have sometime before they would be able to build weapons with this material. I firmly support the Administration's effort to use this limited time to press Iran in every way available to deter them from attaining a nuclear capability. It is important that the President have strong tools to enforce this effort, which is why I co-sponsored the Iran Sanctions Accountability and Divestment Act, which was signed into law on July 1, 2010. These sanctions have also been backed by the European Union.

Last week, in a speech at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, Stuart Levey, the Treasury Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence, said U.S. and international sanctions are "dramatically isolating Iran financially and commercially." He was optimistic that this "can and will create leverage for our diplomacy." By targeting Iran's import of refined petroleum and its banking industries, these sanctions are putting a squeeze on the regime and hopefully will ultimately discourage any illicit activity.

As Chairman of the Strategic Forces Subcommittee, I know all too well the seriousness of the nuclear weapons business. While these weapons cannot be put "back in their bottle," responsible nations with this technology can work to stop those who seek to acquire them in order to hold the world and their neighbors hostage. I commend President Obama, Secretary of State Clinton, and my predecessor and friend Ellen Tauscher on making non-proliferation a cornerstone of U.S. foreign policy, and I hope the world community will join us in prioritizing non-proliferation and maintaining pressure on Iran as one critical step towards this goal.

NET ARMOR MADE IN FRANKLIN,
MA SAVES LIVES IN AFGHANISTAN**HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I would like to share with my colleagues a message I received last week from Technology Solutions Group—LAST Armor, a manufacturing solutions company in Franklin, Massachusetts, and a production facility of QinetiQ-NA (QNA). This company keeps good jobs in Franklin—but

more importantly, Mr. Speaker, they save lives in Afghanistan.

The Franklin facility produces what is called "net armor" to protect a wide range of vehicles that transport our soldiers on missions in Afghanistan. This net design was developed jointly by QNA, DARPA and ONR. Easy to use, these QNA nets provide many types of vehicles with 360-degree protection, including overhead, from rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs). This ultra-lightweight, low-cost and easily adaptable protection will even defeat multiple RPG hits.

Earlier this year, I toured the Franklin facility. I had the opportunity to talk with the workers and plant managers, and I saw the net armor they were manufacturing. I heard the enthusiasm and pride they had in their work, and I tried to imagine how the light-weight nets that I held could possibly stop a rocket-launched grenade.

And then last Thursday, I received a note from the company. It was a story that appeared September 22nd in an online newsletter from Fort Campbell, Kentucky. It's written by U.S. Army 1st Lieutenant R.J. Peek, who is with the 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry, 101st Airborne Division. His story is filed from Ghazni Province in Afghanistan, and he talks about how his platoon was ambushed and his truck, covered with the new net armor, had taken three direct hits by insurgent RPGs and not one penetrated the truck. He finishes his story with the following quote, "All of the Soldiers whose vehicles were hit by RPGs are alive today and still in the fight" because the QNA nets did exactly what they were supposed to do.

Madam Speaker, I hope all the workers at the Franklin facility have seen this report from the field. We are proud of the courage and sacrifice of our uniformed men and women in Afghanistan. But we are equally as proud of the men and women in Franklin, Massachusetts whose labor helps save the lives of our troops each and every day.

Madam Speaker, I would like to enter into the RECORD 1st Lieutenant Peek's story, so that all my colleagues can appreciate his candor and the description of what his platoon faces every day, and how the QNA nets are making a difference.

[From Clarksville Online, September 22, 2010] (By U.S. Army 1st Lt. R.J. Peek, 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry, 101st Airborne Division)

GHAZNI PROVINCE, AFGHANISTAN.—When 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry began using new mine-resistant, ambush-protected all-terrain vehicles, they also made the switch from bar cage armor to net armor.

When the first few trucks moved into circulation with the net armor, many Soldiers were concerned about its effectiveness, but the nets were combat tested September 19th, and Soldiers approved.

U.S. Army 1st Lt. Matthew Ward from Herndon, VA, platoon leader of 2nd Platoon, B Company, 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry, confessed he was skeptical about the nets. "I just didn't think the thin net would be able to safeguard the vehicle and the Soldiers from a rocket-propelled grenade."

While conducting a patrol along a highly traveled road in eastern Ghazni, insurgents initiated an ambush from close range. Less than 100 meters away, insurgents fired a volley of RPG rounds, followed by a series of machine gun fire and then another RPG.

The Soldiers of 2nd Plt., B Co. returned fire and moved their trucks forward out of the ambush. From their new position, the Soldiers continued to fire, forcing the enemy to break off the attack and flee. What amazed the Soldiers, and the leaders, was the trucks had taken three direct hits by insurgent RPGs and none had penetrated the trucks.

"The worst effect of the insurgents' RPG fire was that I got my bell rung a bit," said U.S. Army Pfc. Joseph Sweat from Smithville, Tennessee. Sweat was driving one of the trucks that was hit. "The RPGs detonated at the nets, failing to penetrate the vehicle's armor," said U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Cameron Erisman from Hiram, GA.

"It turns out, the nets did exactly as advertised they would do," added Ward. "All of the Soldiers whose vehicles were hit by RPGs are alive today and still in the fight."

IN HONOR OF THE VIETNAM VET-
ERANS OF AMERICA—READING,
PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER**HON. JOE SESTAK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, on September 24th, 2010, in Reading, Pennsylvania, a ceremony marked the 22nd anniversary of that proud community's Vietnam Memorial. It is my personal honor to join the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), Reading, PA Chapter in celebrating that event. The author Myra MacPherson wrote that "above all, Vietnam was a war that asked everything of a few and nothing of most in America." When called, many young Americans went abroad to fight for our Nation—just as their fathers did before them. Sadly, the sacrifices they made in Southeast Asia were not reciprocated by our government or the American public. They returned to a nation wracked by recession and without the medical care, counseling, educational opportunities or public support they deserved.

That outrageous neglect persisted for over thirty years as a grossly underfunded Department of Veterans Affairs was unable to meet their needs. As a result, courageous men and women suffered alone for years with the debilitating illnesses associated with exposure to Agent Orange and other physical and emotional maladies unique to that war. The fight to right those wrongs was led by the VVA, and as the senior most veteran ever elected to the House of Representatives, it has been my solemn duty in Congress to see that our Vietnam veterans receive the recognition and resources that belatedly fulfill our obligation to them and their families for their service to a now grateful Nation.

The 110th and 111th Congresses have worked very hard in that regard but more needs to be done. Madam Speaker, I ask that this chamber pause to acknowledge the patriotism, courage, and fraternity of the VVA and salute every veteran of the Vietnam War. With our nation again at war, let us continue our work to finally, fully support veterans of all conflicts. And let us pledge to never again abandon a generation of brave American warriors.